



TOWN OF BERWYN HEIGHTS

Prince George's County, Maryland

Incorporated in 1896 ~ Sixth Oldest Municipality in PG County

TOWN MEETING MINUTES JULY 10, 2013

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 p.m. Present were Mayor Calvo, CMs Almoguera, Dennison, and Kulpa-Eddy. Also present were Town Administrator Murphy, PFC Paul Roberson, in for Chief of Police Antolik, Treasurer Lape, Clerk Harper and citizens. Mayor Pro Tem (MPT) Wilkinson had an excused absence.

Mayor Calvo led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. MINUTES

Clerk Harper read a summary of the June 12 Town meeting minutes. On a motion by CM Dennison and second by CM Kulpa-Eddy, the minutes were approved 4 to 0.

2. TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Lape gave the Treasurer's report for the month of June.

3. MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Calvo gave an update on the Council's summer agenda. The Council continues to work on revising Ordinance No. 118 – Roads & Right-of-Ways, which grew out of an effort to regulate Pepco's tree trimming operations. The revised Ordinance will have a new permit requirement for activities that impact the Town's right of way and sets up a process for monitoring and accepting the work, and fining violations. On the sidewalks project, the Town is negotiating with the County about finding an acceptable way to mitigate storm water run-off. This will probably be a pond to collect run-off before it enters Indian Creek. The Town is also researching options for installing emergency generators at the Town Center. TA Murphy is working with contractors to design and engineer the system for different energy sources.

At the end of June, the Council attended the Maryland Municipal League (MML) conference. Mayor Calvo had the opportunity to speak with other mayors, state and local leaders. He had a good conversation with County Executive Rushern Baker about education issues, and about postponing an increase in tipping fees at the Station landfill, which was implemented at the end of FY 2013. The County Executive has the option to waive the increase, which would cost the Town an additional \$6,000 per year. He learned that Montgomery County has concluded a Memorandum of Understanding with Pepco that aims at reducing double utility poles, power lines are strung on tall poles, while cable TV and telephone lines are using a shorter pole. The MOU requires utilities to coordinate to put all wires on one pole.

Mayor Calvo continued that he spoke with councilmembers from College Park, Riverdale Park, and University Park at the MML conference about an idea to re-brand the area as a parks district. The concept was mentioned by Aaron Marcavitch, Executive Director of the Anacostia Trail Heritage Area (ATHA), who updated the Council on ATHA's efforts to spur economic development along the Anacostia Trails.

Mayor Calvo then announced upcoming events, including a presentation by the Green Team at the July 15 worksession; a presentation by the Purple Line outreach team at the July 24 Four Cities meeting; and National Night Out on August 6. Further, he informed that the next electronics recycling date is on July 27 and that the recycling bins for batteries and fluorescent light bulbs were set up in front of the Town Administration Building.

4. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Administration: CM Almoguera reported that the transformation of the old media center/library into a meeting room has been completed.

Code Compliance: CM Kulpa-Eddy gave tips on mosquito control. She said that the most effective way to reduce the mosquito population is to eliminate standing water around the yard, which denies mosquitoes a place to breed. In addition, grass should be kept short, pool water cleaned or drained and ponds treated with special insecticides.

Parks and Recreation: CM Dennison announced that this year's Traveling Garden program has been launched. The book "The Curious Garden" will be passed around to homeowners whose gardens are admired. A food preservation class was arranged by the Green Team for July 20. School will resume on August 19 and the Hello Huskies back-to-school night will be celebrated on August 27.

Public Safety: Officer Paul Roberson reported for Chief Antolik. He said that Part I offenses for June set a record low with only 2 thefts, whereas the 5 year average was 6.6. The officers last month issued a total of 182 traffic tickets, 132 of which were for moving violations and 69 were parking citations. In addition 316 speed camera violations were issued. Officer Roberson further noted that 2 arrests were made for burglaries, including an offender who committed a series of burglaries over the past few years. He was sentenced to 20 years in prison. Officer Roberson thanked resident Ron Shane for reporting a suspicious person, which led to the second arrest.

Public Works: Mayor Calvo reported for MPT Wilkinson. He said that new recycling bins have been ordered and will be delivered to homes that need them. Residents who wish to keep the old bins can do so, but should mark "do not remove" on the bin.

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Education Advisory Committee: CM Dennison said that with the start of the new school year parents may want to consider volunteering for the Education Advisory Committee, which needs a new chair.

Historical Committee: No report.

Neighborhood Watch/Emergency Preparedness: CM Kulpa-Eddy reported that Fox News 5 yesterday carried a special on the Prince George's County CERT, featured a Berwyn Heights CERT member. The piece had good information on how to become a CERT member and is available at the website www.myfoxdc.com. Kulpa-Eddy also noted that a first aid CPR and AED class will be held in Landover on July 27, and National Night Out will take place on August 6.

Recreation Council: No report.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was none.

7. NEW BUSINESS

Resolution 06-2013 – Extending School Zone Hours of Enforcement: Clerk Harper read the Resolution. CM Almoguera moved to adopt it. CM Dennison seconded. Mayor Calvo explained that MPT Wilkinson strongly advocated for extending the hours of enforcement in the school zones to start at 7 am and end at 6 pm. During these hours the speed limit is lowered to 15 miles per hour. Pontiac Street in front of the school has become a busy pickup and drop-off point for school buses. Students, other than Berwyn Heights Elementary School students, come there to catch buses early in the morning and get home late in the afternoon. With these comments, the Council voted 4 to 0 to adopt the new school hours.

Resolution 07-2013 – Amending Personnel Manual, Chapter 5: Clerk Harper read the Resolution. CM Almoguera moved to adopt it. CM Dennison seconded.

Calvo explained that the Personnel Manual is out-of-date and the Council has plans to overhaul it. However, an issue recently arose with an employee in an position that needed an immediate fix, which this Resolution will implement.

CM Kulpa-Eddy proposed 2 amendments. The first related to the section on Compensation during Acting Department Director Assignment, which needs to be labe Chapter 5 (f). She believes that the provision giving the employee the option "to accept or decline the Acting Department Director assignment" should be move section that deals with advertising of such a position. She moved to strike the sentence from this section. The motion failed for lack of a second.

CM Kulpa-Eddy further proposed to add the provision "No such temporary assignment shall exceed 6 months, unless extended with approval of the Town Coun Section (f) of Chapter 5. Mayor Calvo said that he disagrees with the change because the appointment of an acting director is a Council decision and by extens matters related to it. An acting assignment, other than department director, can be made by a department director, but requires Council approval if it exce months. CM Kulpa-Eddy opted not to make a motion to amend the section if the 6 month limit is understood to be implied. However, she asked that this be cl when the manual is rewritten.

With no further comments, the Council voted 4 to 0 to adopt the Personnel Manual change, subject to proper labeling of the section on Compensation during Department Director Assignment.

8. CITIZENS DISCUSSION

Bob Kovalcheck commented on a matter that occurred in March of this year. He had asked a friend to help him plant flowers because he was in the hospital. The received a ticket for parking too far from the curb while doing him this favor. He was able to explain what he was doing to the officer, who wrote the ticket, bu did not result in the ticket being rescinded. Mr. Kovalcheck thought that, as a matter of common sense and civility, the ticket should have been rescinded becau friend was doing something positive in the community. He hopes that the police will use better judgment in the future.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Signed: Kerstin Harper, Town Clerk

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